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NATURALIST NOTEBOOK

OCTOBER 1972

VOLUME VIII

NO. 8

FRONT COVER: AUTUMN FORAGER: CHIPMUNK ON BRANCH

Photo by William M. Miller, Jr.

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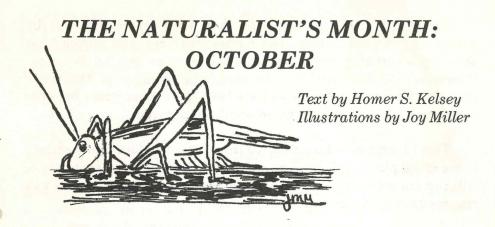
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October is the real Autumn month.

Some late asters and goldenrods give special color to the fields and roadsides and the (now rare) fringed gentian appears again in a few, special places (DO NOT PICK!). Reptiles and amphibians prepare for hibernation. Birds are migrating south by the thousands. Most warblers have flown south by October 10, while some juncos and white-throated sparrows will have arrived "for the winter," but special hawk flights can be expected: accipters (such as sharpshinned and Cooper's) early and many others late in the month. The ruby-crowned kinglet should appear by mid-October and possibly the golden-crowned kinglet by the end. The hermit thrush, pipit, and fox sparrow will mostly migrate through during the month. Ducks will be arriving in great numbers.

The presence of insect-eating birds tapers off, along with the decreasing supply of their food. However, insects of the order *Orthoptera* are notably audible. They include katydids and crickets, which are especially vocal on cool afternoons and evenings. We should take special note of the "song" of the tree cricket, which is light green and delicate—quite in contrast to the common black cricket which seems to enter the house on occasion. The latter has a loud, irregular "chirp" while the tree cricket (usually on shrubs, corn, tall flowers, etc.) has a high-pitched trill, sometimes long and constant but often broken into short chirps which are given with remarkable regularity. In fact, the frequency is determined by the temperature: use the formula T=37+4N, where T= temperature (°F.) and N= the number of chirps per minute. Remember, this gives you the temperature where the cricket is located, not at your thermometer, necessarily. Try it!

By mid-October, we have the most spectacular show of the month, the colored foliage. The anthocyanin red and purple hues show up when they are manufactured more or less as the green chlorophyll is destroyed by the metabolic changes in the tree's growth. The carotenoid yellows have been there all summer but now become visible as the green chlorophyll is destroyed.

Don't forget to put together your terrarium before cold weather. Some small plants will have ceased growth and, being in a rest state, will remain more or less the same all winter while some others will resume growth in the warmth of the house.

Finally, by late October we can begin to see in the eastern sky, in late evening, some of the "winter" stars and constellations: Pleiades and Taurus by 9 p.m., Gemini and Orion after 9 p.m., and the bright star Sirius around midnight.



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

In the 1972 fall migration, several species of shorebirds will be marked with yellow feather dye on the underparts and yellow streamers attached to the leg. Sanderlings will be marked only with leg streamers. Birds will be caught on the Magdalen Islands (Gulf of St. Lawrence).

Reports of sight records should include the locality, date, species, name and address of observer(s). Information should be sent to:

Raymond McNeil Centre de Recherches Ecologiques de Montreal 4101 est, rue Sherbrooke Montreal 406, Quebec, Canada

TRIBUTE TO TSC VOLUNTEERS

by Marion Bulmer

Did you ever wonder how a staff of a director and one naturalist could plan and carry out all the programs you read of in the monthly calendars of activity—in addition to giving several lectures in various schools some weeks, guiding tours daily at various sites during May, June, and early fall for school and scout groups, typing and mailing three different monthly mailings, serving store customers, and handling the two-line phone system?

They couldn't! Behind the scenes here at TSC has been a dedicated team of volunteers to help with the tremendous work load. So this is an opportunity not only to thank these people publicly but also to make the general membership aware of what has made the Center "tick."

Special praise must go to the gals who have faithfully given a half-day weekly to cover the office and store: Evelyn Harris, Ellen Tirrell, Jane Jordan, Edith Hollister, Patsy Highberg, Saren Toulmin, and Ruth Van Slyck. Keeping the membership file up to date has involved many hours a week for Anne Reiss, Helen Coombs, and Ruth Fell.

Faithful substitute workers have been Mrs. Henry Folsom, Ruth Mason, Mrs. Lawrence Miner, and Mrs. Bryce Tate. They have always been willing to come in on a moment's notice—sometimes to help with the deluge of phone calls the Center receives on the workshop sign-up days each month.

Mrs. John Leighton, Valerie Lanning, Nancy Strohla, Kent Moore, Jeanne Ryan, and Darlene Weeman have been so kind as to give many of their Saturdays to cover the office during Saturday workshops. Also helping on Saturdays during the summer were Ruth Laboc, Roth Towsley, Miss Marion Clarke, and Mrs. Charles Wood.

The junior naturalist programs were extremely popular this spring. Helping naturalist Kathie Haeni with these four-and five-year-old children was Mrs. George York.

Other special needs were filled by Mrs. Knute Holmsen and Nancy Russell, our faithful typists; Charlotte Klipp and Barbara Barnes, who handle the volumes of monthly mailings; Kent Moore, who with a team of Connecticut College gals brought order to the museum storage room; and Pat Corcoran and Louis Howland, box office attendants for the Wildlife Film Series at Palmer Auditorium.

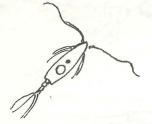
In addition to the above "inside team," we have a well-trained and equally dedicated "outside team" headed by Barbara Kashanski. Barbara and her volunteers, assisted by staff members, spent 87 volunteer hours conducting 62 tours this spring for school and scout groups at the Connecticut Arboretum, Harkness Park beach, Stone Acres Farm, Waterford Beach marsh, Haley Farm, and the Peace Sanctuary. This team consisted of Jeanne Ryan, Susan Davis, Patsy Highberg, Irene Cassidy, Heather Yarnell, Mary Costello, Ruth Fell, Betty Pinson, Winnie Hobart, Ruth Ritter, Rory Taylor, Bob DeSanto, and Bob Dimico.

In the past couple of months there have been some staff changes due to the departure of Executive Director Bob Treat. For the first time the Center hired someone to manage the busy office in the person of Mrs. Agnes Becker. With naturalist Brenda Bibb arriving to assist Chief Naturalist Frank Haeni, the Center can look forward to its busiest season yet. With this increase in staff and continued service from our volunteers, the Center will be even better able to serve this community.



EDITOR'S NOTE: The author neglected to mention one of the busiest of all our volunteers—herself! As Director of Volunteer Services, she does yeoman service in recruiting volunteers to fill all the Center's needs as described above. Special thanks to you, Marion!

MIGRATIONS UNDER THE SEA



Text and Illustrations by Brenda Golberg Bibb

Every spring and fall, young naturalists can easily see the great numbers of birds which migrage south. But did you know that some of the smallest animals in the world also migrate? And that some of the largest animals live by taking advantage of this?

These small animals are zooplankton (animals which float with the currents) of the oceans. Instead of migrating north and south with the seasons, they migrate up and down with the daylight. Their food (tiny floating plants) grows near the surface of the sea, where the sunlight is greatest. But the animals avoid this bright light, living in deeper, cooler, darker waters in the daytime. During the afternoon, they begin to swim upwards as the light fades. While it is dark, they are at the surface feeding. Then, as the first rays of sunlight penetrate the sea, they begin their return to the depths. Animals which are only this long (-) may travel over a half a mile a day, from their daytime depth of one-quarter mile up to the surface and back.

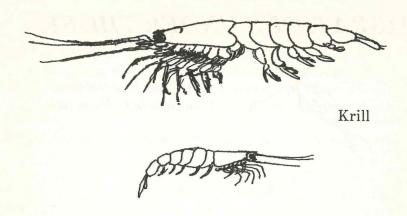
Since these animals are small weak swimmers, they are carried by whatever current that they find themselves in. Sometimes there are currents flowing in different directions at the surface and in the deep water. This means that the zooplankton can be carried in either direction, depending on where they spend most of their time.







zooplankton



The whales of Antarctica include some of the world's largest animals, the Blue Whales. These whales feed mainly on one kind of zooplankton called krill, shrimplike animals about two inches long. Adult krill live in a surface current flowing northward. When they lay their eggs, the eggs sink into a deep current which is flowing south. As they are carried toward Antarctica, the eggs hatch into larvae, and the larvae begin to grow. They are about half grown as they approach the ice pack. It is at this time in their lives that they migrate to the surface. Once they are in the surface current, they stay there until they are full grown. Then, as adult krill, they lay their eggs to start the cycle over again.

Whales follow the krill, finding the places where they are largest and most plentiful. The whales strain the krill from the water by the "whalebone," which is like a giant sieve in the mouth of a whale. Because they feed directly on the krill (which feed by straining tiny plants out of the water through bristles on their legs), whales get the maximum amount of energy possible from their food. They are the fastest growing of all animals, gaining twenty tons per year as young whales.

So when you see the birds on their long flights south, think of the plankton swimming up and down in the sea!

THE SPORT CALLED HUNTING

by Frank R. Haeni

Man has been a hunter of animals (and plants) since the day he learned to use a stone or piece of wood for obtaining meat to feed his family.

Why do men go hunting? Perhaps we are still led by this deep-seated predatory instinct which has carried forward in our genetic makeup from primitive times; or it may be that hunting is a learned response growing out of family associations, a form of play, or an expression of manliness. With rare exception, we in the United States no longer rely on game animals as a source of food for survival. Whatever their reason, almost 18 million men and women went into the field in pursuit of game animals in 1965, and the number has steadily increased since that time.

Animal populations are at their highest levels at the end of summer and during the beginning of autumn. Wildlife biologists and game managers realize that all of the animals produced each year cannot be supported by our dwindling land resource. Carefully-regulated and controlled hunting and fishing seasons are set up that will harvest the "surplus" animals that have been produced. Even with the harvesting of the surplus, many animals still die because of a shortage of food during the winter months.

In a naturally balanced environment, the old, sick, and weaker animals would be consumed by predators such as wolves, bobcats, mountain lions, foxes, eagles, hawks, and owls, to name but a few. Unfortunately, for many years only a few people understood the important role these animals played in maintaining a balanced food chain. Because of this, the predators (wolves, owls, etc.) suffered greatly, almost to the point of extinction for a few.

Another factor which has entered the picture is the loss of habitat. In 1970, the National Wildlife Federation reported that we lost one million acres of land and that this figure continues to grow each year. Of this total, 420,000 acres were for urban development and 160,000 acres for airports and highways, with the remaining acreage being flooded as reservoirs or lakes.

Because of these two factors, plus the added degradation caused by increased pollution, hunting has become an important means in controlling populations of some of our larger game animals.

The revenue derived from hunting and fishing in 1960 amounted to over *one billion dollars*. This money was generated from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses, guns and ammunition, boats and motors. In 1950, the 11% federal excise tax was lifted from firearms and ammunition. Sportsmen protested the removal of this tax and asked that it be levied upon them once again. The money obtained by this tax is used to purchase public land that can be used by the sportsmen as well as the general public. In addition, the moneys are also used in research.

Hunters that go after migratory birds must also obtain a migratory bird stamp for the additional sum of five dollars. Moneys derived from the "duck stamp" are used for the purpose of purchasing land in Minnesota and the Dakotas, where most of the ducks that are raised each year in the United States are born.

Many sportsmen belong to private organizations like Ducks Unlimited, Wetlands for Wildlife, the Ruffed Grouse Society of North America, and the National Wildlife Federation. These organizations also are concerned with purchasing lands for wildlife. Sportsmen are also taxpayers. A small percentage of each tax dollar is used for purchasing public lands and for the management of game and non-game animals.

Unfortunately, there are a few hunters who are not sportsmen in terms of cutting fences, trespassing without getting permission, or shooting baited animals. These people are a minority, and nonhunters should not condemn the entire group because of the actions of a few.

Sportsmen are also good conservationists, and as a group have contributed a tremendous amount of financial support to purchase lands that are also used by hikers, bird watchers, photographers, and many others who enjoy recreating with nature. An important point to remember is that hunting can be a total part of the environment without doing damage to the environment.

HIKING TRAILS IN SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT

Narragansett Trail

16 miles: Lantern Hill eastward to Green Falls Pond. Substantially wooded with views of the Sound and other geographical features from high points.

Pequot Trail

10 miles: Lantern Hill westward to Poquetanuck and north to Bates Pond. Some fine views at Thomas Mountain and just east of Shewville Road.

Nehantic Trail

14 miles: Green Falls Pond northward to Hopeville Pond. Trail goes over ledges, Mt. Misery, and Stone Hill, crossing brooks and skirting ponds.

Pachaug Trail

15 miles: Pachaug Pond eastward to Beach Pond.

Quinebaug Trail

7 miles: Pachaug Forest northward to Plainfield. Primarily a woodland trail.



The Connecticut Walk Book published by the Connecticut Forest and Park Association gives complete information about these and other hiking trails in our State. It would make a fine addition to your outdoor library if you don't already have it. Check at the Museum Shop in the Center.

OCTOBER NATURE JAUNT

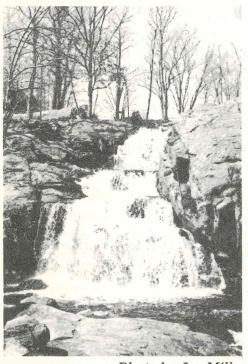


Photo by Joy Miller

If you're looking for a pleasant spot for an outdoor jaunt this month of Halloween, obviously the most appropriate has to be the Devil's Hopyard State Park in East Haddam, The park covers 860 acres of wild ravine along the banks of the Eight Mile River, which drops over Chapman Falls into a chasm formed eons ago glacial debris when blocked the normal stream path. Potholes can be seen where water whirled boulders round and round. One old story has it that the Devil stood on the highest rock and played his fiddle while the East Haddam witches stirred these kettles.

Whether you're interested in legends or not, the ripple of the waters as they flow along is extremely pleasant. On the hottest days of summer one may be cool beside the stream beneath the magnificent growth of hemlocks which fill the area. In early spring the trailing arbutus may be found (if you know just where to look) and the yellow adder's tongue, but at this time of year, the glowing contrast of golden leaves against the deep-toned evergreens, both reflected in still pools, is lovely to see.

There are several trails which traverse the area, some of which lead up over ledges to lookout points. None of these is too far distant from the road which passes through the park, yet the effect of the brooding hemlocks is such that once you are out of sight of the highway, you feel quite lonely and isolated.

The Devil's Hopyard is easy to reach. It is on a marked road leading north from Route 82 west of Salem.

Halloween customs of today began before Christian times with the Druids, who were priests in ancient Britain. They marked the beginning of winter and their new year on November first, and on the night before, a feast was held to honor the lord of death, Samhain (pronounced SAH win). It is believed that on that night ghosts and spirits rose from graves to haunt the living.

Later, in Roman Catholic Britain, November 1st was All Saints' Day. *Hallow* means "saint"; and on All Hallow's Eve or the night before All Saints' Day, spirits from the past as in the days of the Druids were said to roam in the autumn air.

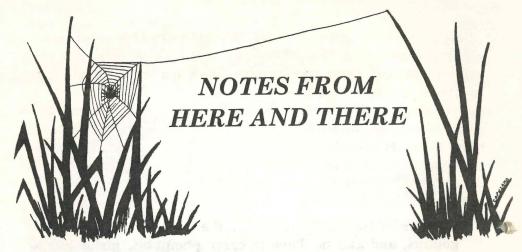
In Ireland there is a legendary Jack-O-Latern who is so miserly he can't get into Heaven and who plays so many practical jokes on people, he can't get into Hell! He is said to be still walking the earth with his candle lighted in a pumpkin to ward off the witches.

On this Halloween when ghosts again haunt your neighborhood, think of the old superstitions of the Druids, and as they never would have done, shout to a spook as it nears you:

"Spook run, ghost run, witch run....run....run!"

"It" will surely run away.

-Shelley White



A NEW FACE IN THE CENTER is that of Mrs. Agnes T. Becker, Administrative Secretary. Born in the small town of Alpine, New Jersey, where she was graduated from grammar school in a class of four students, Agnes has been a Connecticut resident for the past twenty years. She has three grown children and a grandson, but at present only a cat, dog, gerbil, and mynah bird are with her. Her avocations include bowling and gardening.

ANOTHER ADDITION TO THE STAFF is Mrs. Brenda Golberg Bibb, the Center's new Naturalist. She grew up on a farm in Alberta, Canada, and has a deep love for the out-of-doors and interest in nature. At present she is writing up research on sea anemones as a M. Sc. project at the University of Victoria in British Columbia, where she was co-organizer of Canada's first environmental teach-in in March, 1970. More recently she was Conservation Assistant with the Federation of Ontario Naturalists in Toronto.

FRIENDS OF THE CENTER: Mrs. Priscilla Endicott, Mrs. William Willetts, Jr., Miss Margaret S. Chaney, Mrs. J. Martin Leatherman, and Mrs. Robert P. Anderson have renewed their friend memberships.

SCHOLARSHIPS AMOUNTING TO \$125 enabled five youngsters to attend our Environmental Science Day Camp program. Mrs. David D. Knox, the Lyme Land Trust, Roger Motors, and the East Lyme Garden Club were the contributors of the funds, which are greatly appreciated. A warm thank you is also extended to Mr. and Mrs. William Moore, Mrs. Leon J. Bascom, Mrs. Ellery Allen, and Mr. Ostrom Enders for allowing the Center to conduct the science day camp programs on their property.

PEDAL POWER: All year round, bicyclists may be seen throughout New England using this ecologically sound way of getting to their destination—vacation, employment, shopping, or whatever it may be. This non-polluting, simple means of transportation has the side advantage of aiding physical fitness. It's nice to see we on this side of the Atlantic are finally adopting bicycling on a large scale—the rest of the world has been doing it for years. For information about developing marked bike trails or other allied subjects, write the Bicycle Institute of America, Inc., 122 East 42nd Street, New York City 10017, or Friends for Bikecology, 1035 East De La Guerra Street, Santa Barbara, California 93103. A 26-page illustrated booklet, Bicycling for Recreation and Commuting, is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, for 45¢.

WILD FOOD DEVOTEES followed up last spring's workshops with an al fresco potluck August 5 at the home of Jo Merrill. The menu included blackfish chowder; daylily soup; green salad of sorrel, glasswort and orach; casseroles of daylilies and milkweed pods; crabmeat salad; steamed mussels; and nibbles of glasswort and violet leaves. For dessert choice could be made among sumac gelatine, seaweed puddings, berry yogurt, wild jam, and berry pie—or simple handfuls of fresh blackberries, raspberries, wineberries or blueberries. Beverages were mint and sumac ades, black birch and wintergreen teas, and elderberry, grape, or dandelion wine. Steve Syz's mantle as organizer has fallen on the shoulders of Bob Bulmer, and it is hoped to repeat these foragers' feasts seasonally.

ADDITIONS TO OUR RAPIDLY EXPANDING LIBRARY include a ten-volume set of *The Nature Library and Bird Life* donated by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hoadley, Jr., and a twenty-volume set of the *International Wildlife Encyclopedia* received last May from one of our members. Our museum display area will be enhanced by the 100-gallon and 200-gallon aquaria donated by Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Craft and five display cases from Mr. Carl Vogt.

A MONTHLY NEWSPAPER DRIVE will be conducted by the Junior Curators of the Center. Dates for this will be announced in the monthly activity sheets. Save your papers and help the cause of conservation and your Center.

THE FOREST SERVICE HAS BAGGED THE WHITE-FOOTED DEER MOUSE! The mouse, an effective predator of the destructive gypsy moth, is being researched as an answer to controlling the moth. A tiny radio transmitter implanted in the mouse is triggered by its death. With the observation of mortality factors, Forest Service officials hope that they can improve and increase the ecosystem's capacity to provide for these beneficial rodents.

FORMER TSC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOHN F. GARDNER has had published *The Northeast Edition of the Naturalist's Almanac and Environmentalist's Companion*. Congratulations, John!

THE POTOMAC APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB has published a revised outdoorsman's guide, *Lightweight Equipment for Hiking, Camping and Mountaineering*. The publication may be ordered for \$1.00 from PATC, 1718 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

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NOTE FROM CRUSADE FOR A CLEANER ENVIRONMENT: "When a ton of aluminum is used for throwaway containers, we rob the American economy of \$200 of valuable metal, are required to import four tons of bauxite ore to make up the loss, use 17,000 kilowatt hours to convert the bauxite to one ton of aluminum, create three tons of mineral wastes, and scar the environment with litter which will not disappear or degrade for thousands of years."

WEST GERMANY MAY HAVE HIT ON AN IDEA for disposing of the more than seven million cars which head for the junkyard annually. The Bonn Parliament is considering legislation which would include the *cost of disposing of a car* in its original purchase price. To put an end to the abandonment of valuable scrap steel, the buyer must provide for a suitable recycling burial when he picks his new car.

"JAPAN IS SAID TO BE THE WORLD'S MOST POLLUTED NATION," reported the *Washington Post* recently. How did Japan acquire this distinction? Try to imagine a country where the traffic policeman must be relieved every thirty minutes to recuperate from air pollution or a city in which the drug stores compete with one another by offering "free oxygen" to those who patronize their stores!

FALL FIELD TRIP brochures have been sent out to all of the elementary schools in southeastern Connecticut. The staff is busy each day conducting these programs.

FIELD NOTES— AUGUST 1 - SEPTEMBER 5, 1972

CONTRIBUTORS: Please send or call in your field notes to Frank Haeni at the Center by the last day of the month. We are planning to publish reports by the calendar month rather than the staggered dates formerly followed. This should be more convenient for future reference.

The highlight of this period was a rare LAWRENCE'S WARBLER. This hybird cross between the GOLDEN-WINGED and BLUE-WINGED WARBLERS was seen near the southern boundaries of Devil's Hopyard State Park, September 2.

Unfortunately for bird watchers, the August dog days syndrom hold true even for this rare breed of individuals who rise before the sun and head into the field. This is the time of the year when the young birds are on the wing and are beginning to feel the restlessness that occurs just before the migration begins. However, September and October bring a multitude of new and exciting birds into our area as they pass through on their way to warmer climes. Some of the best bird watching of the year can be had now. Good birding areas include the Peace Sanctuary in Mystic, the Connecticut Arboretum in New London, Barn Island in Stonington, and Napatree Point at Watch Hill in Rhode Island.

Waterford: A CAROLINA WREN was seen on August 5. On Wayhill Road a very early MYRTLE WARBLER and another CAROLINA WREN were also found August 16. Watch to see if we have a large wintering population of RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES this year: the first of the season was spotted on August 27. A BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER was seen August 31. Two early BLACKPOLL WARBLERS were also observed.

Old Lyme, Saybrook, Haddam: An extremely unusual western visitor, the WESTERN TANAGER, was spotted in Otter Cove, Saybrook, on August 21. A RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH was seen August 27 in Old Lyme and another was also seen in Haddam on September 2. In addition to the rare LAWRENCE'S WARBLER, the primitive plant Isoetes (QUILLWORT) and an even rarer member of the Callitrichaceae (WATER STARWORT) family were also found in Haddam.

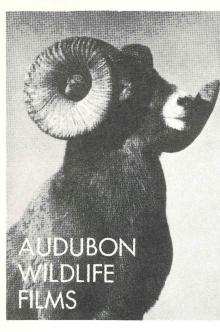
Mystic, Stonington: The young OSPREY from the nest near Latimer's Point was observed flying around there until mid-August. Birding at Barn Island August 14 produced the following observations: 6 adult LITTLE BLUE HERONS, 1 COMMON and 8 SNOWY EGRETS, 1 MARSH HAWK, 1 CLAPPER RAIL, and 5 DOWITCHERS. Birding there on August 28 produced 8 GREEN-WINGED TEAL, 4WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS, and a BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER. Two RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES were seen at Latimer's Point August 31. A NASHVILLE WARBLER was banded on the Peace Sanctuary September 4. Numerous AMERICAN REDSTARTS were observed in the trees overhead along with another RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH.

Rhode Island Shoreline: Two unusual MARBLED GODWITS were seen at Napatree Point in early August. From Quonochontaug on August 13 came the following report: 7 LITTLE BLUE HERONS, 18 COMMON and 7 SNOWY EGRETS, 2 YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERONS, and 3 RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS. Other observations also included 1 WILLET, 5 DOWITCHERS, 1 BLACK TERN, 2 GLOSSY IBIS, and 4 KNOTS.

Five Junior Curators had an exciting time helping Chief Naturalist Frank Haeni band HERRING GULLS at Sandy Point in Stonington. Through banding, we hope to find out the resident population of gulls on the island, the number that actually survive long enough to leave Sandy Point, and whether these same birds return in successive years to renest and raise young of their own.

Contributors: G. Bissell, Mrs. C. Chapin, T. DeGange, F. Haeni, H. Kelsey, D. Slivinski.

As in all of your field excursions, if you find a banded bird, please report the band number, location, and condition of the bird to the Science Center. Valuable information will be lost unless the band numbers are reported.



Sixth Season presented in NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT

by

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Sunday, January 28, 1973 Harry Pederson

"The Bahamas—Top to Bottom"

Sunday, February 18, 1973 Walter J. Breckenridge "Migration Mysteries"

Sunday, April 8, 1973 Eben McMillan "Outback Australia"

Brochures and ticket request forms are in the mail to all members.

For further information, call 442-0391.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

NATURALIST NOTEBOOK

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The active support of children and adults in the Science Center, its programs, activities and efforts is earnestly solicited.

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